Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DACCA 02695 020229Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 AID-05 HA-05 IO-14 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 /079 W
----------126817 020236Z /66
R 010915Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9094
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CINCPAC

UNCLAS DACCA 2695

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS AID/OFDA

E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS : PBOR, BM, BG
SUBJECT : PRESS TREATMENT OF ARAKANESE MUSLIM ISSUE

REF : DACCA 2641

1. IN THE FOUR DAYS SINCE SENDING REFTEL, THE BANGLADESH PRESS, BOTH ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR, HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE INFLUX OF ARAKANESE MUSLIMS INTO BANGLADESH. THE MAY IST EDITION OF THE BANGLADESH TIMES, QUOTING OFFICIAL SOURCES, ESTIMATED THAT OVER 40,000 REFUGEES HAVE NOW CROSSED THE BORDER, BUT THE TIMES SUGGESTED THAT THE FIGURE MAY BE CLOSER TO 50,000. THE MAJORITY OF THE REFUGEES ARE REPORTEDLY OLD MEN AND CHILDREN, WITH THE YOUNGER MEN AND WOMEN HELD BACK BY THE BURMESE BORDER AUTHORI-TIES. SEPARATE STORIES OF BURMESE OFFICIAL BRUTALITY HAVE BEEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DACCA 02695 020229Z

IN THE PRESS EACH DAY, INCLUDING FIRST-PERSON INTERVIEWS BY A CORRESPONDENT OF THE TIMES.

2. IN A SEPARATE SHORT NOTE MAY IST, THE OFFICIAL BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY, BSS, REPORTED THAT BURMESE AUTHORITIES OPENED FIRE THE PREVIOUS DAY ON A REFUGEE CAMP INSIDE BANGLADESH TERRITORY. NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED IN THAT CLASH. AN APRIL 30 ARTICLE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT 50 PEOPLE HAD REPORTEDLY DIED OF BULLET AND STAB WOUNDS RECEIVED BEFORE CROSSING THE BORDER.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM APRIL 29, THE BDG CALLED IN THE BURMESE AMBASSADOR TO PROTEST THE INFLUX AND SUGGESTED THAT HE TOUR THE AREA USING BDG FACILITIES. THE AMBASSADOR'S REPLY WAS NOT NOTED. IN THE SAME ISSUE, APPEALS FROM VARIOUS MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS IN DACCA WERE PRINTED, MOST OF WHICH CALLED ON EITHER THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS OR THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. ITTEFAQ, THE LARGEST BENGALI DAILY, REPORTED MAY IST THAT A TELEGRAM FROM THE BD-US FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HAD URGED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERVENTION TO STOP THE EVICTION OF THE BURMESE MUSLIMS. (COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED THE TELEGRAM. END COMMENT.)

4. EDITORIALS HAVE CALLED ON THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE THE TROUBLE SO THAT THE REFUGEES CAN RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO MENTION HAS YET BEEN MADE OF THE STRAIN ON BANGLADESH RESOURCES IN THE ATTEMPT TO COPE WITH THE INFLUX. AS OF MAY IST, THE BANGLADESH RED CROSS, ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, HAD DISTRIBUTED TONS OF MILK POWDER, BISCUITS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND BLANKETS, BUT THE SUPPLY HAD FALLEN SHORT OF REQUIREMENTS. NO MEDICAL EPIDEMIC HAS YET BEEN REPORTED.
SCHNEIDER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MOSLEMS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DACCA02695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780186-0244
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805106/aaaadmuf.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b2b4a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DACCA 2641
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2533139
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS TREATMENT OF ARAKANESE MUSLIM ISSUE
TAGS: PBOR, SHUM, PINT, SOPN, BM, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2b4a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014